BATMAN LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT

186 APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

FEB 2005

McCARTHY
CASTILLO
RAMOS

RiDdLe mE ThaT Part 2 of 5

DIRECT SALES

18611

7 61941 20007 1

$2.50 US $3.85 CAN

dccomics.com

KRGGGH!
WHUMP
OH, COME NOW...
...SAVE THE THEATRICS FOR THE NEW-COMERS, WILL YOU?

Riddle Me That
PART TWO

SHANE McCARTHY writer | TOMMY CASTILLO penciller | RODNEY RAMOS inker
TONY AVINA-colorist PAT BROSSEAU-letterer
MICHAEL WRIGHT-associate ed. BOB SCHRECK-editor
Batman created by Bob Kane

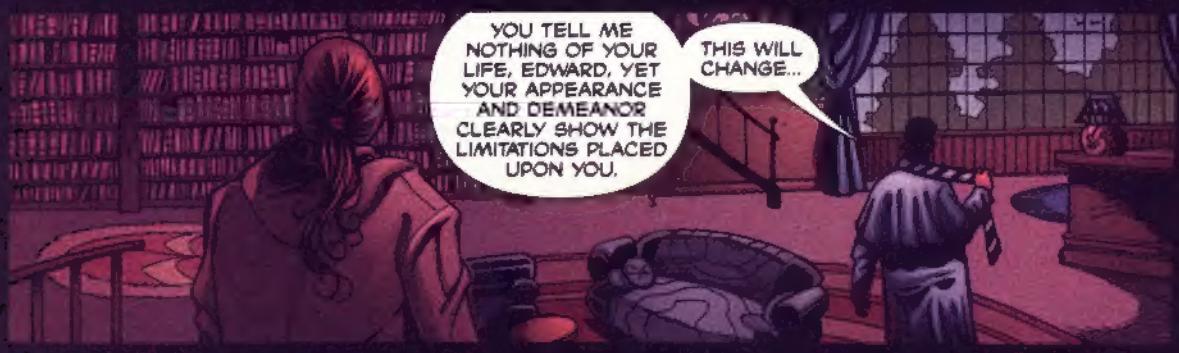
NOTHING FOR *MONTHS* ON END. NOT A PEEP. AND *THIS* IS WHY?
THIS NEW LOOK IS DESIGNED TO *IMPRESS* ME, IS IT?
IT TOOK ME NO TIME AT ALL. YOU'RE SLIPPING, NIGMA.
SORRY, NO. JUST THE GIRLS.
SIGH THOUSANDS ON THE SUIT. EVEN MORE ON MINOR SURGERY AND A TOTAL MAKEOVER AND *STILL* HE DOUBTS...
TRI-HYDROXYOCTANE. INSECT ATTRACTANT. A COMPLETELY UNHEARD-OF CHEMICAL TO *MOST*. BUT, AS EXPECTED, NOT TO YOU.
YOU WERE *NEVER* GOING TO FALL FOR THAT *RENOIR*. WHERE'S THE *STYLE*? AN *INSULT!*
HOWEVER...

"PITY THE SAME COULDN'T BE SAID FOR YOUR LADY FRIEND..."
TOYS
AND THEN WHAT, MR. KOUGHUN?
AND THEN HE SAW IT. LIKE I SAID, HE JUST SAID SOMETHING ABOUT THE CLUE LEADING TO SOME OLD HYDRO PLANT ON BLAKE--
CLICK!
BATMAN?
WELL, HELLO...

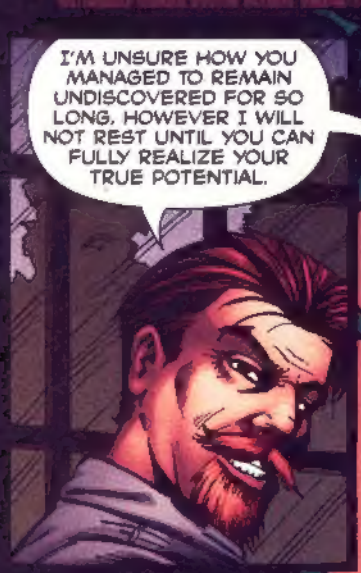
SLAM
DON'T BE SCARED, DARLING...
I HAVE SOMETHING SPECIAL PLANNED FOR YOU.

IT IS AS I EXPECTED, EDWARD.
YOUR MIND IS SOMETHING TRULY EXTRAORDINARY.
I HAVE CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THESE MATTERS. ALL TESTS CLEARLY SHOW YOUR CAPACITY AND POTENTIAL TO BE, WELL...
...I'LL REFRAIN FROM USING THE TERM "GENIUS" TOO EARLY, HOWEVER I'M CONVINCED THIS IS WHERE YOU'RE HEADED.
"HEADED?"

RAW AND UNTAMED YOUR ABILITIES AND MIND MAY BE, BUT GIVEN ENOUGH TIME...


YOU TELL ME NOTHING OF YOUR LIFE, EDWARD, YET YOUR APPEARANCE AND DEMEANOR CLEARLY SHOW THE LIMITATIONS PLACED UPON YOU.
THIS WILL CHANGE...

YOU WILL STAY HERE WITH ME. THIS IS WHERE YOU WILL LEARN AND BE EXPOSED TO STIMULI PREVIOUSLY WITHHELD FROM YOU.


I'M UNSURE HOW YOU MANAGED TO REMAIN UNDISCOVERED FOR SO LONG. HOWEVER I WILL NOT REST UNTIL YOU CAN FULLY REALIZE YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL.

YOU WERE DESTINED FOR GREAT THINGS, EDWARD, I'M SURE OF IT.

HARRIS IS A PART OF THIS NOW? WHY, NIGMA? THIS IS BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
OF COURSE IT'S BETWEEN YOU AND ME, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN BETWEEN YOU AND ME.
BE PATIENT. EVERYTHING, AS ALWAYS, WILL BE REVEALED IN TIME.
YOU LOOK DOWN YOUR NOSE...EVEN AFTER WHAT I DID TO YOU, ALL OF YOU...
BUT LET ME TELL YOU RIGHT NOW, WHEN THIS IS OVER, I'LL HAVE WHAT I WANT...
I'LL HAVE VICTORY IN MY HANDS AND YOU'LL BE THE ONE TO HAVE GIVEN IT TO ME.
I PROMISE YOU THAT.

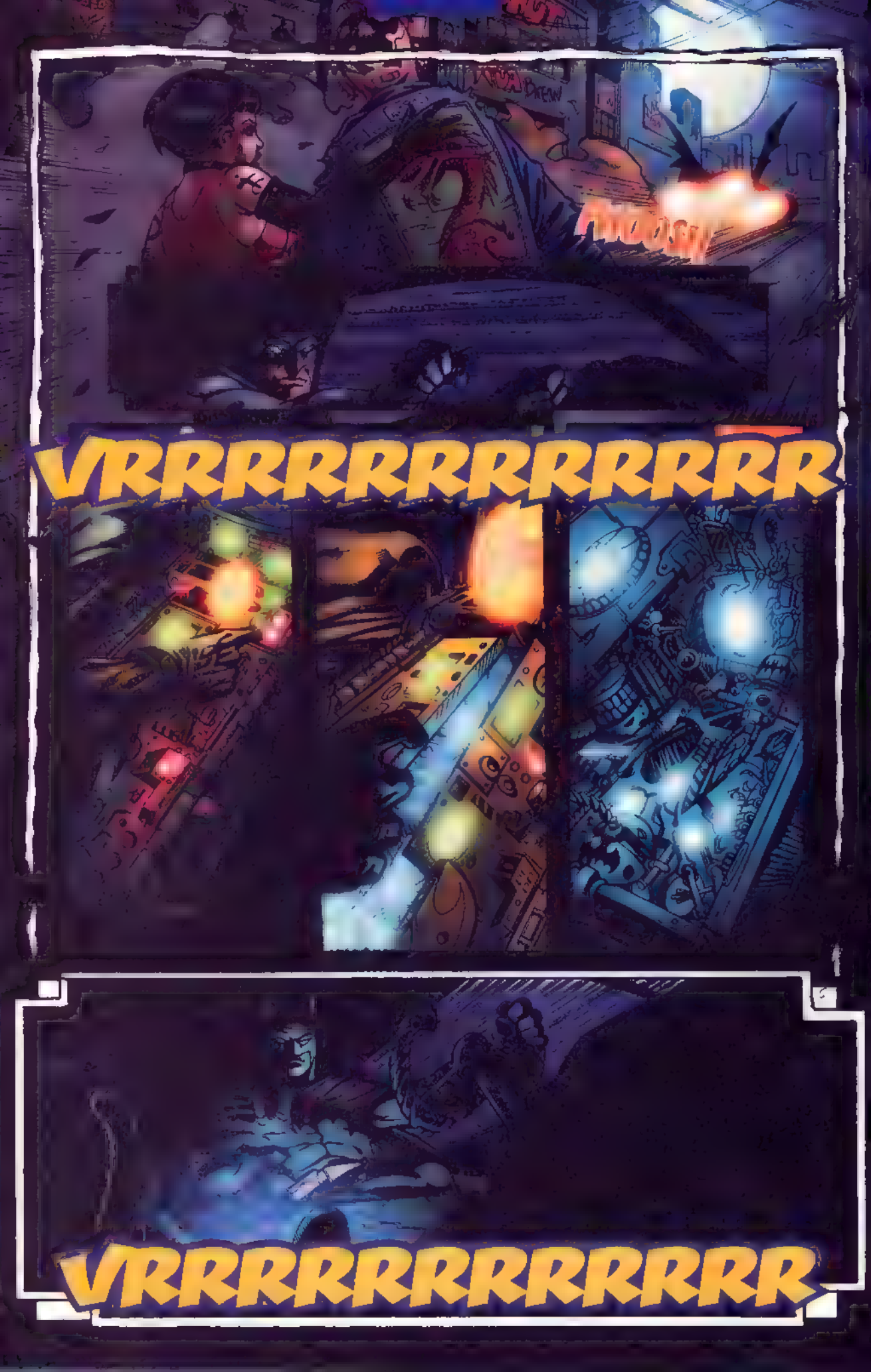
YOU KNOW I HATE TO BE THE ONE TO SAY IT, BUT AT TIMES YOU CAN BE INCREDIBLY--
--RUDE.
RIGHT THEN, WHAT PREPOSTEROUSLY SMALL DETAIL DID I LEAVE OUT THIS TIME?
SCENT. YOU'RE DEVOID OF ONE.
SCENT. OH, MY. YOU'RE WORTH EVERY PENNY, YOU REALLY ARE.
FINE...

RIDDLE ME THIS, BATMAN! WHAT IS AT THE BEGINNING OF ETERNITY, THE MIDDLE OF FOREVER AND THE END OF TIME?
THE LETTER E.
INDEED IT IS .
WHAT IS THIS, WHAT ARE YOU PLAYING AT NOW?
WELL, IT'S A LITTLE EMBARRASSING...
YOU SEE, IT SEEMS THAT ONE OF THOSE USELESS LITTLE TWITS ON THE TRAIN HAS MANAGED TO PICK UP A BOMB. TERRIBLE, I KNOW.
NOW YOU HAVE EXACTLY TEN MINUTES BEFORE CHOO-CHOO GO BYE-BYE.

RIDDLER!
LOOK AT YOU, OOHH, ALL THREATENING.
THIS STYLISH LITTLE NUMBER IS SYNCHRONIZED WITH THE BOMB'S TIMER.
PLACE IT ON YOUR WRIST–
I DON'T NEED IT.
TAKE IT!
YOU KNOW HOW THESE THINGS WORK, CHUM. PLAY BY THE RULES OR NOT AT ALL, EH?
IF YOU CHOOSE TO FORFEIT, YOU FORFEIT THE LIVES OF EVERYONE ON THAT TRAIN.
FIND THE BOMB...
...YOUR LIFE JUST MIGHT DEPEND ON IT.

EDWARD? WHAT HAS GOTTEN *INTO* YOU, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
NO, IT'S O.K....I THOUGHT YOU WERE..I'M O.K.. SORRY.
IT WASN'T OUR INTENTION TO STARTLE OR FRIGHTEN.
I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY SON, MARTIN. MARTIN, THIS IS EDWARD.
PLEASURE
WHATEVER

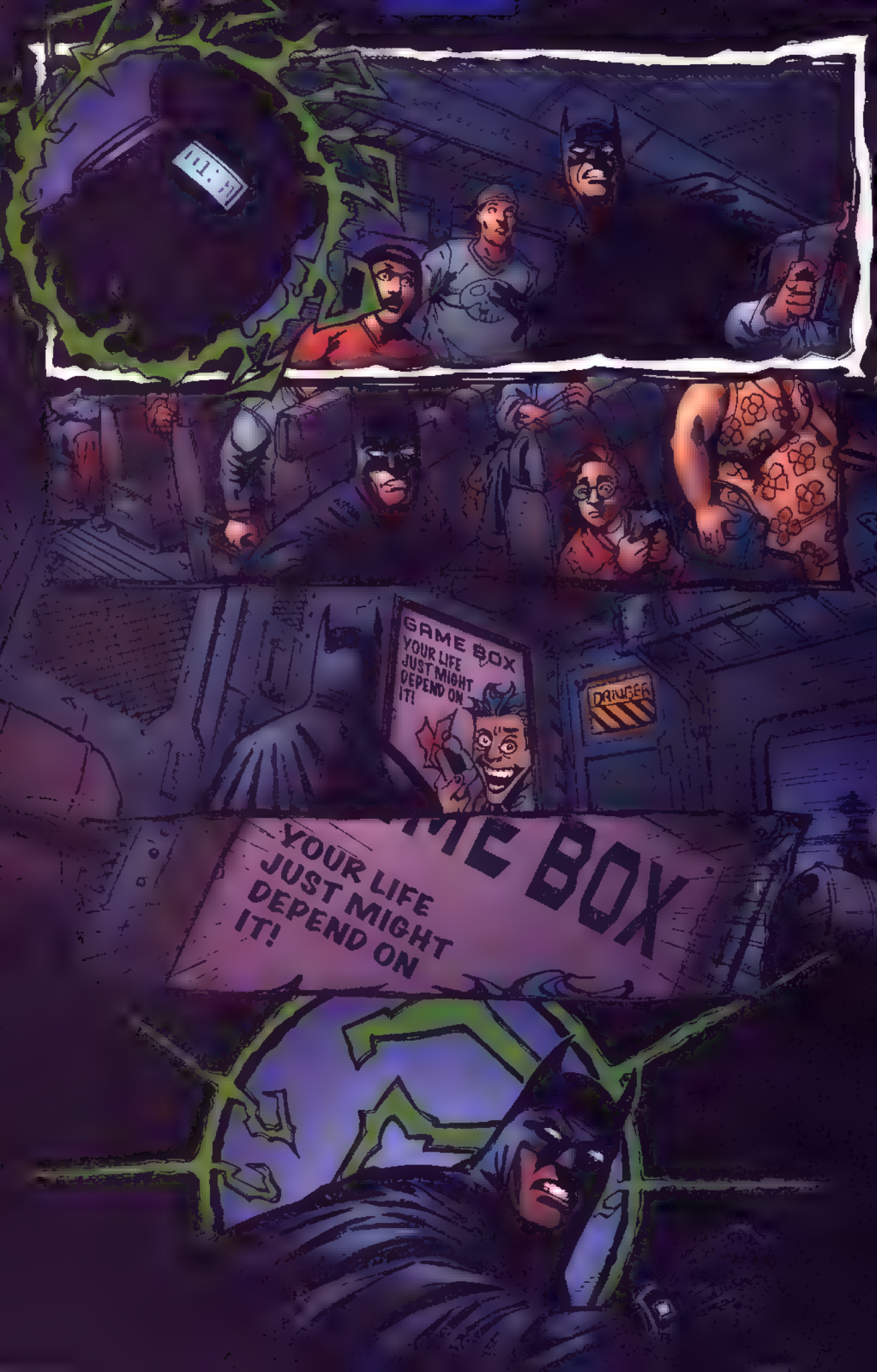
MARTIN. MANNERS
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE YOU'VE BEEN UNDER THIS ROOF YOU CAME TO ME, WE AGREED.
YESSIR
MY APOLOGIES, EDWARD. HE'S A GOOD BOY, BUT LIKE SO MANY HIS AGE, HE FELT IT NECESSARY TO REBEL A LITTLE AGAINST HIS FATHER, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, MARTIN?
AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, IT WAS A GREAT CONCERN OF MINE HAVING HIM OUT ON THE STREET LIKE THAT, AND WITH THOSE PEOPLE
THEY AINT ALL BAD.
WHILE THEY AREN'T ANY GOOD, EITHER
FOCUS, MARTIN. FOCUS.
TAKE A PAGE FROM EDWARD'S BOOK. WHILE YOU DON'T SHARE HIS INTELLECT, YOU COULD AT LEAST LEARN FROM HIS RESOLVE.
HE'LL BE STAYING WITH US FOR A WHILE.
PLEASE SHOW HIM THE PROPER RESPECT.


VRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
VRRRRRRRRRRRRRR

COMPUTER. ACTIVE SCAN. SEARCH FOR EXPLOSIVES AND CHEMICALS, HAZARDOUS OR OTHERWISE. CROSS-MATCH WITH ALL POSSIBLE EXTERNAL COMBINATIONS.
SEARCHING.
SEARCH NEGATIVE. NO TRACE OF LISTED CRITERIA.
HSSSS

COMPUTER. INITIATE FOLLOWING SEQUENCE. ALPHA THREE.
INITIATED

HELLO?!
ANYBODY?!
HELP ME! SOMEBODY!


GAME BOX
YOUR LIFE JUST MIGHT DEPEND ON IT!
DANGER
YOUR LIFE JUST MIGHT DEPEND ON IT!

YOU!
MY GOD.
MOVE!

SMASH
BATMAN!

BOOM!
TO BE CONTINUED!

MONTHS UNTIL DC COUNTDOWN... 2 MONTHS TO 7 SOLDIERS... 1 MONTH TO NIGHTWING: YEAR ONE... 3 MO

12.04

IN DEMAND

dccomics.com

keyword: DC COMICS on AOL

This Month's Cover by...

SEAN PHILLIPS

A Soldiers Story

"This is a storytelling challenge I've been dreaming of."—writer GRANT MORRISON

Next Month in...

Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #187

Chapter three of "Riddle Me That" finds a battered and singed Dark Knight three steps behind the Riddler in a race to save an innocent girl!

SEVEN SOLDIERS #0 (February, 2005):

Comics megastar **Grant Morrison** embarks on his most ambitious project to date – a 30-book epic adventure, composed of two bookend chapters and seven self-contained four-issue miniseries. This historic maxiseries stars seven individuals – among them a knight, a witch, and an escape artist – who never actually meet, but are intrinsically linked as the world's salvation against one of the most terrifying threats it has ever faced. And if that isn't enough motivation to rank SEVEN SOLDIERS at the top of your comics checklist, then add the fact that PROMETHEA's **J.H. Williams** is the first of several artistic legends enlisted for the event of 2005! Hey, sign us up!

The Hot List THIS WEEK

AQUAMAN #25

New series writer John Arcudi joins artists Patrick Gleason and Christian Alamy! Months after the sinking of San Diego, the citizens are coping with their loss in familiar — and deadly — ways. Can Aquaman adapt to stop them?

JSA #68

Part 1 of the 5-part "JSA/JSA," featuring painted covers by Alex Ross on the first two issues! When a villain changes history, wiping out the original JSA, the modern team must restore history before the change becomes permanent.

NIGHTWING #100

An extra-sized spectacular! Ever since Blockbuster's murder, Dick has buckled under unbearable guilt. Now, with "War Games" behind him, Nightwing must mete out justice — and it all begins with the battle everyone's been waiting for: Nightwing vs. Tarantula!

FORGING COLD STEEL

Four years after making a huge splash with his much-lauded JLA hardcover, A LEAGUE OF ONE, **Christopher Moeller** plans to outdo himself with his latest effort, JLA: COLD STEEL, a two-issue Prestige Format series written and fully painted by Moeller, introduces an intergalactic threat that is literally bigger than the entire League! And based on the pages we've seen so far, we can honestly say 2005 will be another gigantic year for the World's Greatest Super-Heroes!

FOWLER BOWS ON GREEN ARROW

Tom Fowler obviously liked working on **Judd Winick's** critically acclaimed CAPER so much that he's decided to join Judd on GREEN ARROW, becoming the series' regular artist with issue #46! Accompanied by GREEN LANTERN embellisher **Rodney Ramos**, Tom's coming on point at just the right moment – the crime kingpin Brick is directing the Emerald Archer's greatest enemies to drive him out of Star City, while the new Speedy pays a visit to Titans Tower! And those are just the first of several sharp story twists that will have fans quivering with anticipation this January!

THE (BOY) WONDER YEAR

We all know that before he became Nightwing, Dick Grayson fought crime as the original Robin, the Boy Wonder. But RICHARD DRAGON's **Chuck Dixon** and **Scott McDaniel**, along with BATGIRL: YEAR ONE co-writer **Scott Beatty**, make their long-awaited return to NIGHTWING this January with a six-part biweekly arc that reveals the events which prompted Batman's first partner to strike out on his own. From issues #101-106, look for the Dark Knight, Superman, the then-new Teen Titans, and a Who's Who of classic Bat-villains to make for what's sure to be an electrifying "Nightwing: Year One"! And hey, while we're on the subject of "Year One" stories…

LAUGHING MATTERS

CATWOMAN scribe **Ed Brubaker** and JUSTICE LEAGUE ELITE-ist **Doug Mahnke** are producing a "tour de farce" that's anything but funny: a Prestige Format one-shot that bridges the gap between Batman's earliest confrontations with the Joker and the oh-so-colorful Red Hood! You're bound to be in good humor this February for BATMAN: THE MAN WHO LAUGHS!

– your JOE at 1700

DC COMICS DAN DIDIO VP-Executive Editor PAUL LEVITZ President & Publisher GEORG BREWER VP-Design & Retail Product Development RICHARD BRUNING Senior VP-Creative Director PATRICK CALDON Senior VP-Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALIS VP-Finance TERRI CUNNINGHAM VP-Managing Editor ALISON GILL VP-Manufacturing RICH JOHNSON VP-Book Trade Sales HANK KANALZ VP-General Manager, WildStorm LILLIAN LASERSON Senior VP & General Counsel JIM LEE Editorial Director-WildStorm DAVID McKILLIPS VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing JOHN NEE VP-Business Development GREGORY NOVECK Senior VP-Creative Affairs CHERYL RUBIN Senior VP-Brand Management BOB WAYNE VP-Sales & Marketing

BATMAN: LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT 186, February 2005. Published monthly by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to LEGENDS OF THE DARK KNIGHT, DC Comics Subscriptions, P.O. Box 0528, Baldwin, NY 11510. Annual subscription rate (12 issues) $30.00. Canadian subscribers must add $12.00 for postage and GST. GST # is R125921072. All foreign countries must add $12.00 for postage. U.S. funds only. Copyright © 2005 DC Comics. All Rights Reserved. All characters featured in this issue, the distinctive likenesses thereof and related elements are trademarks of DC Comics. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. Printed on recyclable paper. DC Comics does not read or accept unsolicited submissions of ideas, stories or artwork.

Printed in Canada.

DC Comics, a Warner Bros. Entertainment Company